

St Anus Essay thesis,

on the
Strumous Diathesis.

chosen to his thesis, he fear has long

Respectfully Submitted
which is due to the

Homœopathic Medical College

of Britain of Pennsylvania.

On the Twenty Sixth Day of January
One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty.

admit, his own thoughts as well as the
information for the same in order to
a Doctorate in Medicine

by the writing of this
George W. Bigler.
suggested by
of Maryland. — 1888

Strumous Diathesis.

The subject which the writer has chosen for his Thesis, he fears has long since been exhausted of all the interest which the attractive charm of novelty would throw around it.

But in compliance with the time honored custom of Medical schools, the writer of this has brought together in as good order as his time and attainments would admit, his own thoughts as well as the information for which he is indebted to authors, on the subject that he has chosen. If in the writing of this brief Essay, a single idea has been suggested to the author which will add a

particle to the aggregate of human happiness,
or less in the slightest degree to mitigate
human suffering, he will feel himself ~~very~~
amply repaid for the time he has bestowed
on it ~~composition~~. ~~has occasion during~~

From a mere Lyro in Medicine nothing
is expected, (the author is aware) but a
statement of his views substantiated
by such authorities, as may be immediately
acceptable to him on the subject.
Had the Writer the powers of the Poet,
or Divine, volumes might be written ~~written~~
upon the topic he has chosen, and ~~writing~~
the subject would remain unexhausted,
but as a mere Student of Medicine he
is aware that it must be viewed in
another and more practical light.

And without any further preface he will-

at once proceed to the consideration of
his subject.

The terms *Scrofula* and *Struma*, being
used as convertible terms, the writer will
so use them as he has occasion during
the course of his Essay.

The term *Scrofula*, is derived from the
Latin word, "Scrofa", and was originally used
by Vegetius to denote a peculiar disease
in cattle which strongly resembles the
Scrofulous Glandular swellings, which occur
in the human subject; The Latin authors
adopted it in their Nosological tables, using
it to indicate the swellings which are known
at the present day to be scrofulous.

Gullen defines *Scrofula* to be "Tumors
of the glands chiefly in the neck, upper
lip, and soft part of the nose tumid,

face florid, skin soft, abdomen large; It is now however generally thought that Scrofula consists in a peculiar morbid deposit called "Tubercle", and that Scrophulous swellings of the neck, Phthisis, Tuber Miserterica, Enlargement of the joints, Eruptions, &c, owe their appearance to this peculiar deposit of tuberculous matter. The physical signs of this diathesis are numerous, and some of them are spoken of by authors as being almost pathognomonic.

The physical signs of this diatheris are numerous, and some of them are spoken of by authors as being almost pathognomonic. They are stated to be an extreme whiteness, faintness, and softness of the skin, light hair, blue eyes, in a soft and rounded form of the body, and generally a mild and pleasant expression of the face, the cheeks of a bright rosy hue, the teeth of a pearly whiteness, and subject to -

Early and rapid decay; the skin is very easily wounded and difficult to heal, the limbs are disproportioned to the size of the trunk, and are generally light and well formed, sometimes those who are of this diathesis are above and often below the medium stature, ^{are} as a general rule they are always on one of these extremes.

The powers of the body are feeble, and there is but little endurance of fatigue.

The circulation is generally weak and but feebly carried on in the extremities.

We have generally torpor of the bowels and indigestion connected with this diathesis.—

There is a great disinclination for exertion, or any kind of active labor among its possessors, and this feeling early in life often influences them in choosing some sedentary

and light occupation, which tends to
develope the latent disease which exists within
them, and accelerates the formation of
Tubercle, instead of choosing an active and
exposed life as might retard or permanently
prevent its appearance. ~~We have on these,~~
But though those misridots are thus
deficient in physical power, they appear
to be peculiarly gifted in mind, they are
generally of keen perception, a great deal
of fancy and imagination, warm
feelings, and of a sanguine turn in
their undertakings; In early life they
are generally distinguished for the
brilliancy of their minds, but this
appears to be at the expence of their future
greatness, they are generally nervous and
impulsive in manner, but want for the

at application, firmness, and steadiness
of purpose, that are so essential to
success in life. We have another species
of constitution belonging to this class, -
It belongs to those who are of a dark and
silvery complexion, We have in these,
round limbs, and generally distended abdomen,
miserable weakness, coarse skin, with great
apathy or indifference, absence of mind,
often irritability of temper, and great
obstinacy of manner, In fact we have here
several or most of the attributes of what
has been styled the Leucophlegmatic
temperament; The late Dr Samuel Johnson
that intellectual Goliath of England, of whom
it may be truly said, "He never said a
foolish thing and never done a wise one,"
is the best illustration of this class. That -

at present occurs to the writer. ^{with restriction}
Terculosis sometimes appears in persons, who possess none of the signs of this
diatheris that I have named, but these are
exceptions. The general rule is that it
should occur in such persons as those I
have above described; Conjunctivitis,
Cervical swellings, and various tumors,
and enlargements of the glands, occur
among those who do not apparently possess
this diatheris, but whenever any disease
of this kind shows itself in any one,
notwithstanding his apparent health, we
may safely infer from it, that he is
of a vitious habit, and if not cut
off. by accident or some acute disease,
that he will one day die of Tubercular
Phthisis, our treatment in these cases -

should be prophylactic, and such restrictions should be used as to prevent the development of Tubercles, or such other diseases as we may be led to fear from the leading symptoms in the case. ~~Scrofulous Diseases~~ ^{attack} spread all the tissues of the body.

It is observed in the ambulatory time, and is frequently found eating its way through the integuments, and leaving ghastly wounds exposed on the surface. This is a form difficult to heal or treat, and on its recovery, it leaves scars or cicatrices of a very ugly character. The mucous membranes are often the seat of its ravages. The mucous membrane of the nose is destroyed and the bones become spongy and cavernous, the mucous membrane of the eyes, are also altered, and here we have conjunctivitis, and the several

forms of ophthalmia, also the mucous lining
of the bowels, and here we have ^{or} ~~preparation~~,
The serous Membranes also suffer from
this disease, the Pleura, the Peritoneum,
and arachnoid are each at times the place
of deposit of Tuberous matter;
It sometimes invades the serous Membranes
of the brain, and causes all the symptoms
of acute Hydrocephalus; The synovial
Membranes, and lastly the osseous system
~~are~~ liable to this disease; when it attacks
the bowels we have a slight increase of
vascularity in the system, which is followed
by absorption of the earthy matter of the
bones, in consequence of which it becomes
so much softened that we can cut it with
a knife, after a time this state of softening
is followed by Exfoliations of the Bone which-

comes away in large flakes.

The spinal column is more apt to suffer from this disease, than any other part of the osseous system. When we have softening and caries of these bones, from the setting of the spine angular curvatures are produced.

The Perosteum when attacked by it falls off, and without the bone suffering, but it (the Bone) becomes covered with large masses of adipose tissue, which lay around and enclose it.

The Mesenteric, Mesocæcal, Mesocolic, and Lumbar Glands, the Parotid, Maxillary, and the Glands in the Brains, are all liable to, and are attacked by this disease.

The causes that give rise to scrofula are numerous, and scarcely well defined. Longstaff, Hanson, Okler, Louis, and Andral

have all detected tubercles in the lungs of the factors, though there can be little doubt that both the predisposition, and the disease itself can be derived from the parent: there is reason to believe that it is not exclusively so derived, but that certain causes to which we are subjected through life can produce the same effect; It is not communicated by direct contact or intercourse, although there are many respectable authorities who believe to the contrary. The writer has slept for a number of months in the same bed with a phthisical friend, and without to the best of his knowledge having contracted the least taint of the disease; Beaudelogue quotes the fact that in the Hospital des Enfants, 150 beds are occupied -

by children, some of whom are scrupulous, yet the disease was never known to be communicated from one to another;

Also at the Hospital of St Louis observation confirms the same fact.

Bad air, bad diet, and bad hygiene, generally appear to produce it, yet we find it unfortunately common among those who are subject to none of these influences;

We find that this disease ^{or} prevades to as great an extent, among the children of the wealthy, as among the poor; In fact we often find those are well fed, and provided for, extremely liable to this disease, while the hardy sons of poverty, enjoy a comparative immunity from its ravages. As regards location we find that it is as prevalent in one situation as in another; and here again we find, that if

there is any difference it appears as though those parts of the country, which should be considered most healthy are most liable to it; In mountainous districts where from the scarcity of population, there necessarily follows a good deal of intermarrying, this Diatheris prevails to a great extent.

Most persons of this Diatheris if it develops itself in early life die young.

Those who reach the age of puberty, are much more infirm in health, and if they marry and have families, they alway, beget profluous children, or children in whom this disease in a few years develops itself; They have occasional remissions but still they never possess the fine constitution that belong to those who were originally exempt from its influence.

Although such persons appear to be temporally

cur'd they possess the power of procreating vigorous children. Persons appear to be relieved from tubercles, and yet die from them, a longer or shorter time after their apparent cure.

Among the most prominent causes of this Siatheris, are ranked the syphilitic virus in the parents, Precocious Marriages both among the rich and poor; Onanism has been named as a cause, but Lugol thinks that it is rather an effect of this Siatheris.

Sometimes the causes are with the Father, and sometimes with the Mother, and at others the disease owes its origin to both.

In fact its being hereditary appears to be undisputed, and such being admitted our Lawgivers should frame and pass such laws, as would put a stop to the many ill assortments.

marriages that are daily taking place around us by which this evil is perpetuated.

It belongs to science to prepare the way for legislation on this subject. Apart from the idea of perpetuating this diathesis there can be no doubt but that marriage is almost always fatal to those persons who are predisposed to tuberculous diseases.

In Italy and the south of Europe it is still believed that phthisis is contagious, but experiments made by Lugol, both by inoculation, and various other ways, prove that it cannot be considered contagious, and that it is always either owing to transmission, or is a sporadic disease. Improper diet, bad water, sleeping in badly ventilated apartments, have each been named among the causes of this diathesis, but the water cannot lay to-

much stress upon them in as much as it is
evident to all that the disease is as ripe among
those who possess all the luxuries of life as
among any other class, and we find that in
in this disease that poverty is rather a
prophylactic than otherwise, as we seldom
find it prevail among Sailors, Farmers,
Butchers, or Drapers &c in fact in any of those
classes, where business requires an active out
door life. There is no doubt in the writers mind
that an inactive and sedentary occupation tends
to the rapid development of this class of disease,
when the predisposition to ~~them~~ ^{it} exists; and
that a more active and exposed life will
tend to defeat the same end. As to the
influence of climate upon them we cannot
say much; In all parts of the world, from
the snow clad mountains of Siberia, to the -

sunny plains of Italy, this diathesis appears to prevail. The extreme frigid and torrid zones appear to be alike subject to its influence. In our country suffers more from its ravages than from the effects of any other class of diseases.

It is the writer's opinion that two thirds of our national mortality, leaving out of the calculation those deaths which are the result of infancy, old age, or accident, are caused by diseases belonging to this diathesis. Nor does tubercular diseases appear to be confined to the human species, almost all animals when subject to its predisposing influences appear to be subjects of its ravages; this has been particularly observed in those denizens of the forest, who transplanted from -

their native wilds, are condemned to perpetual imprisonment in our mangeries; among these nearly every death that has occurred has been attributable to tuberculous deposit. It must be apparent then that this disease prevales to a great extent, and is not confined to any particular locality, or race, but that from

"Greenlands ice bound coast to Africas torrid desert, from the regions of almost perpetual night, to where the Dog star always rages;" all nations, and people are subject to its influence.

Having thus briefly spoken of its Physical, and Diagnostic signs, of its causes, and of its locality, we must now devote a short space to its Treatment,

At the commencement of the disease when children are slow in learning to walk, the principal remedies, are,

Bell, Gale, carb, Silie and Sulph.

For the second stage when the glands become affected, require principally, Bary-lab, Bell, Gale-carb, Bistus-ean, Con, Duke, Hep, Lye, Merc, Phos, Rhos-tox, Silie and Sulph.

When cutaneous affections such as Tetter, Meers, and eruptions of different kinds attack the body, the principal remedies, are Ann, Bary-lab, Gale-lab, Bistus-con, Clem, Con, Duke, Hep, Lye, Merc, Mur-ac, Rhos-tox, Silie and Sulph, and also Lanth, Kal-hy, Mez, Nit-ac, Ol-jee, Petr, Ran-bath, Affections of the osseous system, —

particularly require, Am, Calc. carb.,
Bisttr. can, Con, Lyc, Mere, Phos, Phosac,
Puls, Silie and Sulph.

Abdominal obstructions or Mesenteric
Atrophy, require principally Sulph.,
followed by Calc. carb., or the Ars, Asa,
Bary-carb., Bary-nur., Bell, lanth, ihm,
con, Iod, Lyc, Mere, Nur-dom, Puls
and Rhos. tor.

If accompanying Scald-head, there is a
Scrophularia affection, such as enlargements
of the glands of the neck &c. the principal
remedies, are, Ars, Bary-carb., Calc-carb.,
and Staph, or the Bary, or Iule.

For Scrophularia Buboes, a preference
may be given to Hep, Sil, Sulph, or the
Ars, Calc-carb., ihm, Iule, Iod, Mere,
Niti-ae, &c.

When laries of the Bone arises from
Scrofulo-Syphilitic origin, Aconitum,
is the principal remedy.

Bronchial catarrh in scrofulous
children, Bell, and Calc. carb, are very
useful.

Scrofulous Ophthalmia, requires especially
Aur, Bell, Calc. carb, Dulc, Hep. Ign,
Mer, Nux. vom, Puls, Rhiz. tan, and
Mulph, or Rue, laur, Cham, Ferr, Graph,
Petr, Sep, or Rue again, Aur, Bony. carb,
Sann, Cham, lon, Dig, Daphnia, Iod,
Lyc, Mang, and Natr. mur.

Against Scrofulous Otorrhoea (with
ulceration of the Soncha) Especially
Hep, Lyc, Mer, Puls, and Mulphur.
Diarrhoea in scrofulous subjects requires
particularly, Calc. carb, Dulc, Lyc, Sep,

Sil, Sulph, or the Am, Bary. carb, thin,
For Hydrocele in scrofulous persons, Sil,
has been particularly recommended.

Amblyopia in scrofulous subjects,
Bell, Bole-cork, thin, Lin, Isle, Merc,
and Sulph, are particularly adopted, and also
Am, Daphne, Hep, Nar. com, or Puls.

Scrofulous swelling of the Lips, requires
principally Am, Bell, Bary, Hep, Sack,
Merc, Sil, Staph, and Sulph.

If there be at the same time drawing back
of the Lips, Bell, and Merc, are most
suitable.

If there be scabs, or ulceration of the Lips,
Bell, Hep, Merc, Sep, Silie, Staph, and
sulph, or perhaps again Bie, Graph, Nitram,
Scrofulous Swelling of the Nose
requires especially Asa, Am, Bole-cork,

Hep., Muc., Puls., and Ralph, or again
Bry., Sack, and Phos.

Serofulius Inflammation of the Eyes,
Eyelids, and Ears, Bony. loc., is specific.

The *Veronica beccabunga*, and also
the *Veronica scatellata*, were under the
common name of Brook-lime, have been
used externally and internally with success
in old scrophulous Ulcers, accompanied with
symptoms of Phthisis; but they have not
been proved satisfactorily yet, therefore they
have not been introduced into the Materia-
Medica. The writer desires to call
the attention of the physician more particularly
to the invaluable curative powers of the
Cistus canadensis, from a remarkable cure
performed by him, on a lad 14 years old,
who had been awfully afflicted for upwards

of two years, with large scrofulous ulcers upon the ankle and thigh; together with invagination of the submaxillary, and inguinal glands, with a constant discharge of offensive pus from the ears. Having seen the good effect of this remedy in previous cases, I determined to try the full effect of it, without any alteration; I accordingly administered one drop of the Tincture of Castor-oil, every night before going to bed, had the ulcers washed daily with pure castile soap, and burnt tow applied to the ulcers, in order to absorb all pus that might accumulate, and to my agreeable surprise, in thirty days from the time I commenced to treat my patient, the ulcers were all healed, and all invagination disappeared save a small tumor in the inguinal region, which -

appears to be diminishing, the discharge from the ears ceases the first week of treatment.

The treatment of this disease must be modified of course to suit the different cases,

Hygienic rules should be observed by the inheritor of this diathesis, during infancy.

Too early education should be prevented, and every appearance of precocity in intellect should be fanned down, reading in solitude, display of feeling, and pensiveness of disposition, should be avoided; while cheerful party, exercise in sun-light, and the open air, company, and whatever tends to preserve a healthy state of the mind, and body should be attended to. The wearing of comfortable clothing, and avoiding exposure to weather, as well as all exciting moral emotions, together with such a choice of pursuit in life, as will embrace

a portion of out door exercise in labour.
By such a course the direct access of any of the
diseases of this class may be averted perhaps
permanently, while by their neglect, the seeds of
disease, and death, may be more speedily
developed. No class of Diseases deserves
the physician's most serious consideration more
than this, and in none can his advice be of more
value; by a proper exercise of his skill and
influence he can prevent a great deal of sickness
and suffering, and it is his imperative duty
to do so; by preventing if possible some of
the ill-averted marriages, that are daily taking
place, he can prevent the detailing of these
diseases, on a progeny who from the very
nature of things must be short-lived, and feeble.

His duty to society as well as to his profession
should induce him to do so, and although we
do not expect, that his voice in these matters,

will have the weight, to which it should be
entitled, still as a conscientious man in the
discharge of his duty he can do no less;
It is our duty as well as our privilege to do
on such occasions, all that our art will suggest,
to alleviate the ills which suffering flesh is
 heir to, and adopting a firm but moderate
course, between the dark belongs of Empiricism
on the one hand, and ill timed scepticism
and vanity on the other.

Aimed with the shield and buckler of
humanity and science, stand boldly in the
breach, and by a skilful and judicious course
present his patients hopes or fears yeilding a
golden hornet to those vampires the venders
of quack nostrums; There is no obligation
in the duty of a physician either express or
implied the weight of which the master feels more
deeply, and suspends to more cordially than this-

our duty to frown down and expose secret nostrums.

And in concluding, the writer must Express his feelings of gratitude and respect for his Preceptor, in this institution, to whose tuition he feels indebted for the largest portion of his limited medical knowledge. This may not perhaps be the most fitting occasion to make such a Acknowledgments, yet the writer cannot let perhaps the only opportunity that he will have of Expressing himself escape unimproved.

That the future of his Alma Mater, may be as useful, as brilliant, and as prosperous as it has heretofore been is his most sincere wish, and that his own career in life, shall not render him unworthy to be ranked among her sons, shall be his earnest Endeavor.

George. W. Bigler.